

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, June 27, 2012

Present: David Davis, Cassandra Day, Richard Kamins, Joyce Kirkpatrick (7:24), Charlotte McCoid, Bob Santangelo, Lea Tomaszewski.

Also Present: Stephan Allison, staff; Pierre Sylvain

Absent: Barbara Arafteh, Franca Biales, Fran Ganguli, Lee Godburn, , Jennifer Lecce, Linda Salafia, and Student Reps: Lauren Hodge, Maria Malafronte, Chelsea Rak.

Call to Order: Vice –Chair Cassandra Day called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM In the City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Plaza, Middletown, Connecticut.

Public session: Pierre Sylvain, Middletown artist, addressed the Commission and presented his idea for a daylong Festival of Art, Music and Food at the Remington Rand Building near Stack Street in Middletown’s north end. It would be held inside the building, showing off both Middletown’s vibrant arts and this exciting, if little known, space in the City.

****Minutes of May 23, 2012** were unanimously approved following a motion by Robert Santangelo, seconded by Joyce Kirkpatrick, with the following corrections:

New Business: Possible City Art Collection Addition: Change “stone rubbing” to “lithograph.”

Miscellaneous: Other: ii) Change Shining Knight to Shining Night.

****Minutes of Special Meeting, June 5, 2012** were unanimously approved following a motion by Bob Santangelo, seconded by Joyce Kirkpatrick.

****Approval of Agenda:** Following a motion by Bob Santangelo, seconded by Richard Kamins, the meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Remarks from the Chair: Vice-Chair Cassandra Day spoke about the great need in Middletown to be advocates for the arts and the community, to have networks, to advise and to point people in the right direction. She talked about the need for Town Criers beyond the newspapers and electronic press to move things along.

Old Business:

Budget Report: no report

Program Update:

- i) Arts Stakeholders Group: next meetings July 11 at noon and July 23 at 7 PM. Topic will again be about the MiddletownRemix project with Wesleyan CFA.
- ii) Arts & Creative Industries Council, Creative Juice (Chamber of Commerce): is on summer break.

Website: Arts2Go.org is fully functioning and will be officially launched soon.

Committee Reports

Public Art Committee:

- i) The Public Art Collection Catalogue is at the printers and nearly done
- ii) MCAAAA 2012 Award: Joyce Kirkpatrick represented the Commission at the Senior Awards Assembly at Middletown High on June 1 to present the Commission’s award to Elizabeth 'Lizzy' Russo.

The award includes an honorarium for \$150, which the City is sending.

iii) Display Area Dedication: This fall; might be combined with a celebration of the MCA's 40th year.

Planning & Projects Committee:

i) Arts Walk: no report

Nominating Committee: Richard Kamins presented the slate of MCA officers, to be voted at the next meeting in July. They are: Chair – Lee Godburn; Vice-Chair – Cassandra Day; Secretary – Jenny Lecce.

Review of Bylaws: ongoing.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): ongoing.

Kids Arts starts on Monday with full enrollment of the Creative Arts Workshops. 80+/- kids are signed up for each session of CIRCUS.

New Business

City Seal Art: The Commission discussed the Mattatuck Museum's request for the 4 month loan of the painting of the Middletown city seal now hanging in the Council Chambers. The museum is a major state venue and thoroughly professional. Its request included the loan agreement and standard paperwork on insurance, security, curatorial concerns and shipping - all the best practices in museum circles. The Mattatuck would like to include the painting in a show entitled "Art for Everyone" about the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art done during the 1930's and 1940's in Connecticut by the Federal Art Project. Through research, the museum staff found that an artist Michael Lauretano painted the city's seal under this program.

In answer to a concern expressed by how the bare space on the wall would be filled, the Commission offered several solutions: a framed photographic facsimile could hang there with an accompanying sign noting that the painting had been officially removed and was on loan to the Mattatuck Museum (standard museum practice); the Raymond flag could be temporarily hung in the painting's space; the space could remain empty except for the explanatory sign.

****Following a motion by Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Richard Kamins, the Commission voted 6 (Aye) to 0 (Nay) with Bob Santangelo abstaining, that the City be encouraged to loan the painting to the Mattatuck Museum, noting that it is an honor to have Middletown so represented in such an important art exhibition.**

It was also noted that the painting has a rip in the canvas that needs attention.

Special Meeting with Mayor Drew: The rescheduled meeting took place on June 5 at 5:30, Room 208, Municipal Building with nearly all the Commissioners present, in addition to staff from the MCA (Steve Allison) and the Mayor's Office (Joe Samolis).

Other –

Miscellaneous

Staff noted that the Parliamentary Procedure Workshop was excellent, and he will send the power point presentation to everyone so the Commissioners can sharpen their skills. It would facilitate the meetings.

Cassandra noted that Oddfellows Playhouse was sponsoring a fundraiser at the Wadsworth Mansion – a Culinary Food Fest with performances, auction, etc.

Bob Santangelo asked if anyone had any information about a possible Oddfellows Playhouse move to Main Street. No new information was mentioned.

Richard Kamins noted that Mitchell Wynn's commissioned-funded Gospel Fest had been rain delayed until July 7 from 1-5 PM.

Adjournment: Bob Santangelo moved to adjourn, Richard Kamins seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2012

7 PM Room 208, Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kirkpatrick, Secretary Pro Tem

** = Commission action